

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-28 are pending in the application. Claim 17 has been amended and claims 25-28 have been added. Also, Applicant confirms the election of claims 1-5, 9-13, and 17-21 in response to an Election of Species Requirement. Accordingly, claims 6-8, 14-16, and 22-24 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-5, 9-13, and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Sicard, U.S. Patent No. 3,674,154. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 9, and 17 are directed to a filter screen that includes a woven mesh of metal wires with reinforcing filaments, regularly spaced, in the cross-machine and machine directions. Sicard does not disclose the filter screen as recited in these independent claims.

As shown in Fig. 1, Sicard discloses a filtration apparatus having a filtering member 10 that includes an inner screen 12 mechanically supported by an outer layer 14. The screen 12 and the layer 14 are bonded together by welding or brazing. The filtering member 10 of Sicard does not disclose reinforcing filaments, regularly spaced, in the cross-machine and machine directions of the filtering member, as recited in claims 1, 9, and 17. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 9, and 17 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on claim 1 and additionally allowable for their recitation of additional patentable subject matter. Claims 10-13 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on claim 9 and additionally allowable for their recitation of additional patentable subject matter. Claims 18-21 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on claim 17 and additionally allowable for their recitation of additional patentable subject matter.

Claims 1-5, 9-13, and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Koehler, U.S. Patent No. 4,613,369. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Koehler discloses a conventional wire mesh screen 11 with a square weave. The screen 11 includes metal supports which serve to reinforce the screen 11 and also serve as a base for application of suspended metal particles. The suspended metal particles allow for the screen 11 to be folded or doubled back upon itself, for example. Koehler also discloses that the wire screen 11 can be formed into different shapes with ends thereof welded or brazed together. Koehler does not disclose reinforcing filaments, regularly spaced, in the

cross-machine and machine directions of a screen, as recited in claims 1, 9, and 17.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 9, and 17 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on claim 1 and additionally allowable for their recitation of additional patentable subject matter. Claims 10-13 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on claim 9 and additionally allowable for their recitation of additional patentable subject matter. Claims 18-21 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on claim 17 and additionally allowable for their recitation of additional patentable subject matter.

Claims 1-5, 9-13, and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Webb et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,373,615. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Webb discloses a caul screen made with brass coated metal cable having a low twist level and woven into a mesh to form a screen. The screen of Webb does not disclose reinforcing filaments, regularly spaced, in the cross-machine and machine directions of the screen, as recited in claims 1, 9, and 17. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 9, and 17 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on claim 1 and additionally allowable for their recitation of additional patentable subject matter. Claims 10-13 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on claim 9 and additionally allowable for their recitation of additional patentable subject matter. Claims 18-21 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on claim 17 and additionally allowable for their recitation of additional patentable subject matter.

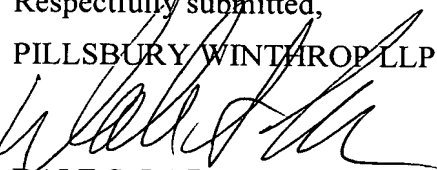
New claims 25-28 have been added to recite additional aspects of an embodiment of the invention.

All objections and rejections have been addressed. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

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Should there be any questions or concerns regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

DALE S. LAZAR
Reg. No. 28872
Tel. No. (703) 905-2126
Fax No.

Date: October 7, 2003
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000